

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's #
75-26, 12

USGS Quad
Whitman

Area

Form #
22

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125



Sketch Map

See continuation sheet

Town **Hanson**

Place

Address **517 West Washington Street**

Historic Name **Beal House**

Use: **Present residence**

Original residence

Date **before 1830; c. 1769**

Source **maps & White's Houses**

Style/Form **Federal/center chimney**

Architect **N/A**

Exterior Material:

Foundation **wood sill**

Wall/Trim **clapboard**

Roof **asphalt**

Outbuildings **yes, see description**

Major Alterations **none**

Condition **excellent**

Moved **no**

Acreage **10.14 acres**

Setting **rural residential**

Recorded by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**

Organization **Hanson Historical
Commission**

Date **April 1996**

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Beal House at 517 West Washington Street is a well-preserved, large-scale, two-story center chimney house with Federal period decorative detailing. This house exhibits a number of unusual characteristics, perhaps the result of additions and alterations over the years. The single-pile, hip-roofed, center chimney block has a series of rear additions and a wing that considerably augment the interior space. The shed-roofed wing on the right-side elevation has a full-width screened porch across the facade. A two-bay saltbox addition spans the rear elevation of the main mass. A one-story gabled ell connects the saltbox addition to a one-and-one-half story gabled structure sited parallel to the house. A one-story glass-enclosed addition is located in the re-entrant angle between the saltbox addition and gabled ell on the right-side elevation. The modest, vernacular ornament is confined to the window and door openings. This includes a wide frieze, flat hood and pilasters framing the entry, a boxed cornice, and thin hoods over the 9/9 double-hung sash windows. The house has two outbuildings near the house (a saltbox garage and a saltbox shed) and several farm buildings on the adjacent lot. These include a New England barn with a shed-roofed cement block addition along the left-side elevation, a corn crib, and a miscellaneous series of one-story buildings and sheds. The clapboard and shingled barn has a corrugated metal roof. A tennis court and a wooded area separate the farm buildings from the house. The house is sited close to the roadway with mature shade trees on the property and woods across the street.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The southern half of West Washington Street remained a rural agricultural landscape well into the twentieth century with only scattered residential development. Historic maps indicate the Beal House is present by 1830, owned by J. Beal. White dates the house to 1769 but his information about later owners does not correlate entirely with the map evidence. Additional research is necessary to clarify this discrepancy and determine the original date of construction. The 1830 valuation list indicates Jesse and Edwin Beal each owned one-half of the house, which may explain some of the house's massing features. The Beals were farmers, evidenced by the number of livestock owned which though small was greater than many Hanson residents at the time. Livestock included three cows, 2 young cattle, 16 sheep and 2 swine. At the time the property included an unspecified outbuilding and a barn. The 1903 map shows two outbuildings (no longer extant) located to the north of the house. Lucius T. Fuller, possibly the grandson of Jesse Beal, owned the property by 1856. The Fuller family continued to own the property until sometime after the early 1930s. Mehitabel Fuller's 1903 valuation listed the modestly valued house (\$500), barn and two hen houses and small amount of land (1 acre lot and over 26 acres of young wood.) The "Mullen Red Acres" farm buildings located to the south of the house date to after 1903 and may have originally belonged to a different property.

REFERENCES

- Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830
- Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856
- Walker, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1879
- Richards, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1903
- White, Houses of Hanson
- Town of Hanson Valuation Lists, 1834, 1903

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. See NR Criteria Statement form.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

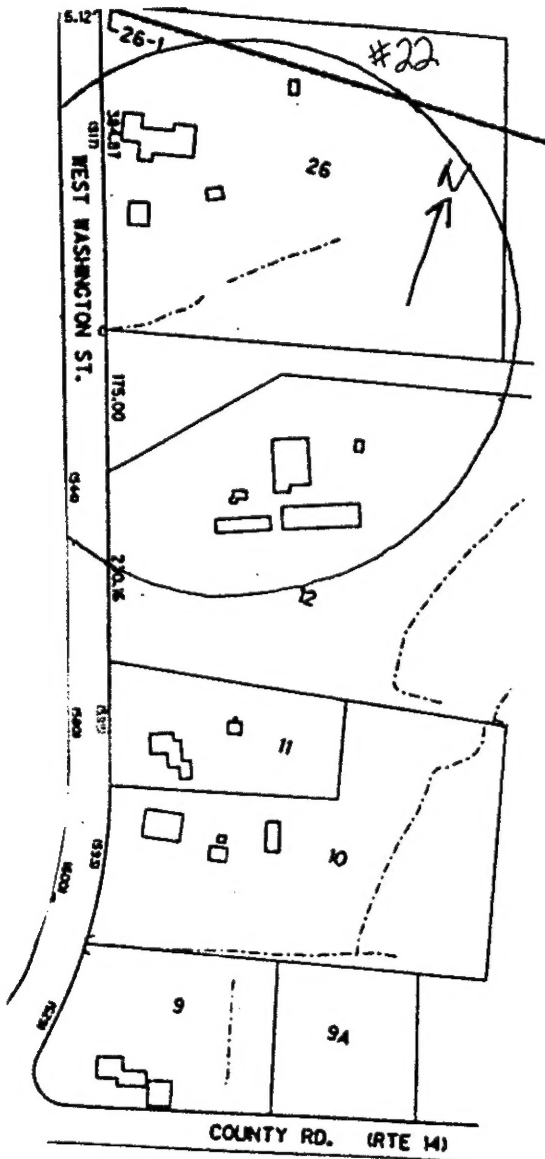
Community
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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible.

☐ Eligible only in a historic district.

☐ Contributing to a potential district.

☐ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**.

This property is significant as a well-preserved example of early building patterns in the town of Hanson, in a settlement configuration distinctive to the town and probably the region. Among the best examples of its type in town, it may be individually eligible but should be evaluated for its role in potential districts when its neighbors can be examined more carefully. The property meets criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.